

REMARKS

Claims 1-20, 23-40, 42-44, 46-48, 51-53, and 55-57 are pending. Claims 1, 13, 20, 23, 27, 34, and 55 have been amended and claims 21, 22, 25, 41, 45, 49, 50, and 54 have been canceled. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments presented herein raise no new issues requiring further searching or consideration by the Examiner, as these amendments either clarify the phrase forming the basis of the § 112, second paragraph, rejection or incorporate into the independent claims subject matter which the Examiner indicated to be allowable.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 55-57 under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, on grounds that the phrase “the first RGB values” lacks antecedent basis. Claim 55 has been amended to delete the word “first” from this phrase. As amended, claim 55 therefore recites “the RGB values” which finds antecedent basis in claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments are sufficient to overcome the § 112 rejection.

In addition to these changes, claims 13, 20, 27, and 34 have been amended to clarify that the invention judges or determines which color in the image has the greater specific gravity, not which color value in the image has the greater specific value. (See, for example, page 6 of the specification for support.) Also, in identifying the specific gravity, claim 23 has been amended to replace the word “predetermined” with “greater,” the latter of which finds antecedent basis in independent claim 20.

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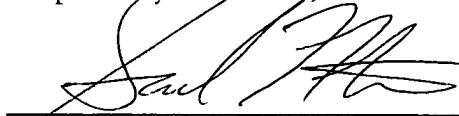
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Finally, the Examiner indicated that claims 41, 45, 49, 50, and 54 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form to recite the features of their base and intervening claims. Equivalently, independent claims 1, 13, 20, 27, and 34 have been amended to recite the features of claims 41, 45, 49, 50, and 54 respectively. (Minor changes have been made to clarify that the specific gravity determination is made for the color, and not the color value.) Applicants submit that these amendments are sufficient to overcome the rejection under 35 USC § 103(a) and to place the entire application into condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with this application to Deposit Account No. 16-0607 and credit any excess fees to the same Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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